

# Ms. Brinkman's Age of Exploration Newsletter

November 3, 2015

## Famous Explorer: Christopher Columbus

In 1492,  
Christopher Columbus  
sailed the ocean blue.  
The common phrase  
that we use to honor  
Columbus and his  
dangerous journey to  
the New World.  
However, Christopher  
Columbus is a  
controversial figure  
today.



<http://www.freakingnews.com/pictures/112500/Christopher-Columbus-as-the-Mona-Lisa-112541.jpg>

Because of the demand for the spices in Asia, the European government wanted to find a sea route for trade. In search of this sea route, Christopher Columbus found the New World on accident. Columbus and his men came in contact with the Taino people, many of the natives suffered from disease, torture, and violence.

## Technology's Role

It was the advances in technology that allowed the Europeans to explore the world. They invented the caravel which was a small ship with sails that were able to use the wind to their advantage no matter which way they blew. Later on, they built the carrack, which was another ship with the same design as the caravel but was bigger and was able to transport more goods and people back and forth.

They also invented tools such as the astrolabe, which is an instrument that used during navigation that helps estimate altitude by using the sun or the stars.



<http://nautarch.tamu.edu/shiplab/01George/caravela/pictures/land-col-3-mastedcaravels6.jpg>

## God, Gold, & Glory

Europeans believed deeply in the Christian faith. They believed that their soul purpose was to spread and convert natives to the Christian Religion. It was therefore a very popular motive for exploration. Another motive was gold. Spain was running out of gold

and they needed it for their economy. The government funded European exploration such as Columbus and the conquistadors to try and find a



<http://e08595.medialib.glogster.com/media/7f7f56f49799a65fe289306d4ae41719cc7b75816e37036490cab8222bed96d5f/gold-20bars-coins.jpg>

route to Asia. The third motive was glory. The idea of glory came out of the Renaissance ideal of Humanism. By winning battles many people received nobility, wealth, and land. Because Europe had little land, land in the New World became a powerful motivator.